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### **Bias Lives**

Sophie M. Korczyk

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# The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

tion to bring a fresh and varied diet to the tables of this wealthy country. Since then, when migrant workers are found held in bondage or a migrant child dies from dysentery, public concern again flares momentarily. Congress may even tighten slightly the poorly enforced standards meant to curb the worst abuses. But there can be no better testimony to the ephemeral quality of this concern than last week's decision by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to kill a long-awaited rule requiring that fresh water and toilets be provided to field workers.

There is a sick joke quality about the Labor Department's justification of its decision. OSHA Director Robert Rowland says that even if a federal standard had been set, it would have been laxly enforced. Well, he is certainly in a position to know how often his agency disregards its own rules. Mr. Rowland notes, moreover, that migrants in 13 states are already covered by some sort of sanitation standards. Perhaps he thinks that those in other states can simply move across state lines when they feel the urge. After all, they're migrants aren't they?

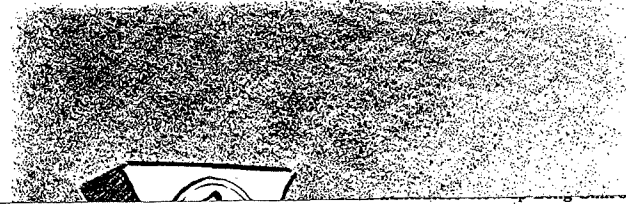
You should know that we are not talking about unnecessary frills. Thousands of field workers and

Johns Hopkins University of workers on the nearby Delmarva Peninsula, have shown that, as a result of these primitive conditions, workers suffer high rates of infectious, parasitic and toxic diseases.

One expert, recently hired by OSHA to review all available evidence, concluded that parasitic disease is more common among U.S. field workers than among Guatemalan children. And because they have nowhere to wash their hands and must relieve themselves in the fields, these diseases are passed on to surrounding communities and the consuming public.

The compelling need—on both humanitarian and public health grounds—is no longer seriously disputed. Even the farm organizations, which have traditionally opposed federal standards, have muted their opposition. One official told reporter Ward Sinclair last week that "many of our members are prepared to put this behind us." Advocates for the farm workers are prepared to appeal OSHA's decision in court. Labor Secretary-designate William Brock should make sure that appeal isn't necessary. Mr. Rowland says that his agency has "higher priority standards" to enforce. What priority can be higher than treating all people in this country as human beings?

"OH, ALL RIGHT — I COULD ALSO THROW IN  
A SIDE TRIP FOR THE GUYS WHO WERE ON  
THE OTHER SIDE"



## Bias Lives

Judge Gerhard Gesell finds it hard to believe that female stereotypes still govern the business world's attitude toward women ["Portraits of Ex-Employee Drawn in Sex Discrimination Case," Metro, March 29], but it is true.

A woman in business today is expected to be creative and aggressive in pursuing the interests of her organization. But if she uses those same qualities within the organization, whether to protect her work from interference or to compete for resources, she will be told she has "rough edges."

Mind you, these edges were roughened in the service of the same people who now want them smoothed. The business world tells women: "Bring in the contracts, but don't forget the cookies!"

To Ann Hopkins I say: "May the force be with you, sister."

SOPHIE M. KORCZYK  
Alexandria

ammunition dump. Americans indulged in wishful thinking about peace, but the government of President Thieu was more pragmatic. F5s with underslung bombs took off daily for retaliatory strikes. "Mopping up" would have taken them a decade and required the aid we'd promised.

I saw no "Yankee Go Home" attitude there. Those industrious and intelligent people were rebuilding their country while defending it, and were kind to me. May Day 1973 was a genuine labor holiday with no pink tinges. All our GIs who were flown home from Saigon passed a government sign, weatherbeaten by 1973, thanking them for their sacrifices.

What a pity, then, that two troubled ex-GIs recently chose our Mall's Vietnam Veterans Memorial for suicide attempts. Our memorial commemorates only the dead. We're stuck with our memorial's design, but we can shuck off the myth of defeat.

RUSSELL C. MANN  
Washington

## For the Record

From an article this month in *Market Trends*, newsletter of the Greater Washington Research Center:

The Greater Washington region is now one of the top centers for the "singles" life style in the nation. Compared to the rest of America's 10 largest metros, this region:

- ranks first in percentage of its adult residents who have never been married;
- is second in the percentage who are not currently married;
- ranks first in the percentage who

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